



Diary Dates:

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|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 23-27/10/17 | Half term |
| 28/10/17 | Peacechild Rehearsal |
| 30/10/17 | Autumn Term 2 |
| 31/10/17 | Image Musical Theatre for Y5/Y6 |
| 4/11/17 | Additional Peace Child Rehearsal |
| 7/11/17 | ESA Meeting 7pm |
| 9/11/17 | Y6 Parents' Evening 4pm-6:30pm |
| 14/11/17 | School Photographs |
| 15/11/17 | School Photographs |
| 22-29/11/17 | Book Fair |
| 24/11/17 | Lights of Love Service 5:50pm |
| 27/11/17 | Y7 Parents' Evening 4pm-6:30pm |
| 30/11/17 | Y7 Parents' Evening 4pm-6:30pm |
| 1/12/17 | Occasional Day |
| 8/12/17 | School Production |
| 9/12/17 | School Production |
| 13/12/17 | Christmas Concert |
| 19/12/17 | Service - St Mary's Church Aspenden |
| 19/12/17 | End of Autumn Term 2:30pm finish |
| 3/1/18 | Spring Term |

Your child's school books.

Your child will be encouraged to take their books home during half term. This will give you the opportunity to share their progress during the seven weeks since the start of term. Please make sure the books come back for the first day of the new half term! Thank you.

Attendance

Just a reminder, to report a student absent, please email direct to: attendance@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk and a written absence note will not be required on return. Please do not send notifications of absence to the admin or Parentmail - Thank you for your co-operation.

Our Attendance Policy has stepped up a gear this year and those students absent for 15 sessions [7½ days] over two terms, will receive a fine warning, and fines will be issued. Please be aware, if you choose to take a holiday during the school term, it cannot be authorised and a fine letter will be issued.

Image Musical Theatre visit Y5 & Y6

On Tuesday 31/10/17 we welcome back the Image Musical Theatre, who will perform for our Year 5 and Year 6 students. In our experience students enjoy this event; they are inspired to create some fabulous writing.

Uniform Thank you to the large majority of parents who are supporting the school to look and feel smarter! If your child is one of the very few who have slipped back into wearing leggings or black jeans – please make sure they return with the correct uniform to support all the parents and students who are getting it right!

Road Safety Awareness

To support our students to act and behave safely in traffic congested situations, after half term, we have invited the Road Safety team from Gistworld to talk to students about how to stay safe. At the start and end of the school day, please park in a place that is safe for students and residents. Sainsbury's car park is free before 9am and after 3:00pm. To help support us, please talk to your child about their journey to and from school, and how to stay safe. We have amended our duties to place a member of staff on the opposite side of the road to manage students as they exit. Buses parked in the layby cause a blind spot, but we will be monitoring all situations.

Peacechild Rehearsal 28/10/17

Peacechild rehearsals will take place during half term on **Saturday 28th October**. Your child has already received the rehearsal schedule, a Parentmail will be sent out confirming rehearsal times. Please provide your child with a drink and a packed lunch. Thank you for your support.

Year 5

Last year, a significant amount of work went into reducing bullying and poor behaviour within the school. As part of this, all our reviews and inspections recognised the "good behaviour of the students". This involved the school, students and parents being clear about what 'bullying' is and what it is not.

At Edwinstree we define 'bullying' as 'repeated behaviours that leave another feeling harmed and/or upset'.

We do not tolerate bullying and I have, and will continue to exclude any student who persistently harms another student, either mentally or physically. Older students and parents can testify to this.

We also worked hard last year to get rid of the idea "that you don't snitch on others". Students in the older year groups are clear this is only used to allow the bullies to continue bullying, and that everyone at their age needs help and support to deal with the problem.

After half term we will devote a PSHCE lesson to ensuring Year 5 are clear what is 'bullying' and what it is not, that it is always important to get help and tell someone when there is a problem. If you can help us by notifying us immediately of a problem – we will act swiftly and effectively.

Year 6 Parents' Evening 9/11/17

Parents/Carers will be notified by Parentmail when the appointment booking system is open.

Non-Uniform Day

Thank you - all funds raised from our non-uniform day will go this year's chosen charity **Teenage Cancer Trust** <https://www.teenagecancertrust.org/>

What is my child learning this term?

Please visit our website for subject information.

www.edwinstree@herts.sch.uk

You Said – We Did

When you let us know of a concern, or offer advice on how we can improve, we will publish a 'You said – We Did' response to keep you informed, we really value your advice.

| You Said | We Did |
|---|---|
| One Y7 parent commented that Saturday morning intervention lessons were difficult to attend, particularly when families have two homes. Weekends may be spent with alternate parents who live out of the area. Their advice was to offer after school sessions. | <i>Our assessment last year showed us that the end of the school day was the least productive time and students made the least progress. Our most effective sessions run on Saturday mornings, when students are fresh and relaxed. The staff who deliver the sessions run significant enrichment events after school, Friday may be our only alternative. Saturday sessions will continue and we will review in December. This eight week programme really does make a difference!</i> |
| If my child is struggling with homework, where can they get support? | <i>As well as our Homework club on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Mrs Kitchener, Mrs Mayne and Year 8 Leaders offer help. Please encourage your child to attend these sessions.</i> |
| Can private tuition be arranged with the Japanese teacher? | <i>Unfortunately, the Japanese teacher does not have the capacity to undertake private Japanese lessons.</i> |

Tag Rugby Festival

Thank you to everyone involved in our Year 3 and Year 4 Tag Rugby Festival. Last week the Freman Sport leaders attended a one day training course, run by Saracens Rugby coaches. This improved their knowledge on the rules and gave them some experience in officiating a game of tag rugby. Although they are all still developing their skills, they did a brilliant job, not only refereeing but scoring and timing.

A mix of Year 7 & Year 8 Edwinstree students played the role of team managers. They all did an amazing job, warming their teams up, supporting, motivating and creating their own games when their teams were not playing.

Due to the new RFU guidelines, the rules have been slightly changed, games are now scored using the school games values of respect, teamwork, self-belief, determination, passion and honesty. There were plenty of good examples of these values from both schools.

A big thank you to Edwinstree for hosting this event. We look forward to the next festival.

Lewis FitzGerald

Partnership Coach / Edwinstree SSCO

How did Lea house celebrate the first win of the year?

Thank you to all the parents, Edwinstree volunteers, ESA members and Midday Supervisors who volunteered to walk LEA house winners to their prize, watching a film at Benson Hall. Everyone enjoyed the experience and can we please take the liberty of promoting the venue. It is well worth a visit. There will be another House Rewards afternoon for students after half term.

Staff Vacancy

We are looking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant from November 2017 – July 2018 - 27.5 hours per week – term time only. Salary H2 (£8.19 - £8.70 per hour). Closing date for applications: 8/11/17. Please contact the school office for further details.

Christian Value Reward

Congratulations to all the students who were celebrated below for displaying the following values in all that they do.

| Christian Values | Boy | Girl | Year Group |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Reverence | Ryan Draper | Chloe Wade Lily Metcalfe | Y6/Y7 |
| Wisdom | Kyler Duncan | Florence Melvin | Y8 |
| Thankfulness | Charlie & George Palin | Charlotte Dobner | Y7 /Y8 |
| Humility | James Thomson | Charlotte Hammond | Y8 |
| Endurance | Johnny Dookheran | Megan White | Y7/Y8 |
| Service | Marco Avanzato & Louis Garner | Charlotte Randall | Y7/Y8 |
| Compassion | Finn Betley | Rhiannon Hudd | Y7 |
| Trust | Reuben Shorey | Emily Walker | Y6/Y7 |
| Peace | Jack Bolger | Emma Yeo | Y7 /Y8 |
| Forgiveness | David Cannon | Lacey Brown | Y6/Y8 |
| Friendship | Sam Hart | Prims MacGiffin | Y6/Y7 |
| Justice | Charlie Gerring | Ela Tas | Y 6/Y8 |
| Hope | Oliver Baker | Darcy Free | Y8 |
| Creation | Max Chudzik | Liepa Burske | Y5 |
| Koinonia | Flynn Richmond | Star Patton | Y6/Y8 |

Incident at the school gate

Thank you to the staff, students and parents who identified a stranger loitering at the school gates on Thursday morning. A member of staff checked that all students were inside school and the gates were locked. The individual was advised to leave. The police were informed and dealt with the situation. We received an update later in the day, advising us the community PCSO would be on duty to reassure parents at the end of the day. A Parentmail was sent home to clarify the

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situation. What we consider throughout this type of event is:

- The safety of the students and staff always
- Be clear about reducing the risk
- Communicating with you

Thank you for your continued support, enjoy a restful half term.

**Jo Gant
Headteacher**

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